

Commanding General's 2008 Memorial Day Message

Each year we pause on the last Monday in May to honor the brave men and women of this nation who have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect us from our enemies. Memorial Day is a reminder to all Americans that freedom has a cost — that the liberties we enjoy were paid for by the sacrifices of countless brave Americans throughout history.

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower once said, "Freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed — else like a flower cut from its life — giving roots, it will wither and die."

Know that your actions protect and nourish the freedoms which every American enjoys.

The work you do every day, whether you are involved in recruiting, recruit training, or defending our nation's coasts from terrorists, carry with them the spirit of all Americans who have put their lives on the line. Since the Minute Men of the Revolutionary War to our brothers and sisters fighting the Global War on Terrorism, you are continuing the proud legacy of service that makes this country great.

So take this Memorial Day to relax and be with family — you have earned it. Above all else, be safe and use operational risk management when celebrating the holiday weekend.

Semper Fidelis!

A. Salinas

A. SALINAS
Brigadier General
U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General



Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas, commanding general of Marine Corps Recruit Depot and the Western Recruiting Region, was the keynote speaker at National Latina Business Women Association Tuesday, for their 2008 Business Symposium and Brava Awards Luncheon in Sacramento, Calif. Brig. Gen. Salinas received the NLBWA's Trailblazer Award at the event. Sgt. Brian Reimers/12th Marine Corps District

Combat veterans now eligible for five years no-cost VA medical care

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

Military veterans who served in combat since Nov.

11, 1998, are now eligible for five years of free medical care for most conditions from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This measure increases a two-year limit that has been in effect nearly a decade.

"By their service and their sacrifice, America's newest combat veterans have earned this special eligibility period for VA's world-class health care," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake.

The five-year deadline has no effect upon veterans with medical conditions related to their military service. Veterans may apply at any time after their discharge from the military — even decades later — for medical care for service-connected health problems.

The new provision, part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 signed by President Bush on Jan. 28 applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient clinic or nursing home. It also extends VA dental benefits — previously

limited to 90 days after discharge for most veterans — to 180 days.

Combat veterans who were discharged between Nov. 11, 1998 and Jan. 16, 2003, and who never took advantage of the VA's health care system, have until Jan. 27, 2011 to qualify for free VA health care.

The five-year window is also open to activated reservists and members of the National Guard, if they served in a theater of combat operations after Nov. 11, 1998 and received an other than dishonorable discharge.

Veterans who take advantage of this five-year window to receive VA health care can continue to receive care after five years, although they may have to pay co-payments for medical problems unrelated to their military service. Co-payments range from \$8 for a 30-day supply of prescription medicine to \$1,024 for the first 90 days of inpatient care each year.



Sgt. Maj. Bryan Link, left, was relieved by Sgt. Maj. Terry W. Petersen during a 3rd Battalion Post and Relief Ceremony on Shepherd Memorial Drill Field May 14. Petersen relieved Link as sergeant major for 3rd Battalion. Link will report to Support Bn. when he returns from leave.

Lance Cpl. Vanessa Barnes/Combat Camera

HEALTH, FITNESS EXPO

Record number attends annual event

4

RECRUITERS GET MUDDY

Dallas, Ft. Worth recruiters compete in Operation Coyote Hole

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YOUTH PHYSICAL FITNESS

Depot hosts annual national competition

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HONOR PLATOON

Pfc. Terry T. Benton, quality control clerk, Headquarters and Service Bn., carries two ammunition cans in the ammunition can relay race that took place at the Health and Fitness Expo at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., May 14. The cans each weigh about 30 pounds. Six teams ran the race and Company A, Recruit Training Regiment won the competition. Teams that placed first, second and third each won \$300 toward their Maine Corps Birthday Ball fund.

Lance Cpl. Jose Nava/Chevron



Health, Fitness Expo has record attendance

BY LANCE CPL. JOSE NAVA
Chevron Staff

More than 500 people attended the fifth annual Health and Fitness Expo at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., May 14.

The expo was designed to help people make healthy lifestyle choices.

The expo had more than 20 booths at the event with most of them featuring programs and services offered here on the depot which included Substance Abuse Counseling Center and New Parent Support services.

“Everyone was invited to come to the expo, from the military personnel on the depot, families of those members, retired service members and civilians that just want to come see what the event was about,” said Michelle Nail, health and promotions director of Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit division.

Some of the booths helped educate people through activities, demonstrations and free health screenings to show the importance of having a healthy body and mind.

“There were all types of health activities, and not just physical but mental health as well,” said Nail. “They had skin tests, body fat tests, tests to see how you step to get the proper foot wear and all kinds of healthy activities.”

Some other items and attractions that were offered at the expo were free massages, gifts, food and a rock climbing wall.

Marines from Headquarters and Service Battalion came to the expo right after a battalion run.

“It was good because it got all the Marines there at the same time to take advantage of the first-come first-served items at the Health Expo,” said Sgt. Maj. Terry T. Hoskins, Headquarters and Service Battalion sergeant major.

“By having the Headquarters and Service Battalion end their run at the expo was a great motivator because they participated and later cheered on their fellow Marines during the competitions,” said Nail.

Team competitions began with a relay ammunition can carry. Company A, Recruit Training Regiment, Company G, Recruit Training Regiment, 12th District recruiters, and Support Battalion were pitted against each another. The winner of the competition was Co. A.

After the ammunition can relay race, the Marines participated in a competition of dips, a gymnastic exercise on the parallel bars in which the body is lowered by bending the elbows until the chin reaches the level of the bars and then is raised by straightening the arms.

The first, second and third place winners, both from Headquarters and Service Battalion, were given \$300 for their Marine Corps Birthday Ball funds.

The number of people that attended this year’s event increased by 100 from last year, said Nail.

“It’s a great event to see the many aspects of MCCS and to see the different things that the Health Expo has to offer for the personnel on the depot and the civilians that come aboard the depot,” said Sgt. Matthew Wee, unit diary and service record book clerk, Consolidated Personnel Administrative Center.

“The expo gets everybody away from their daily routine and breaks up their day,” said Cpl. Khris Kargati, administrative clerk. “It helps everyone get together and develop their relationships of camaraderie.”

After the competition was over, MCCS raffled prizes ranging from yearly passes to SeaWorld to gift baskets.

Balboa Naval Hospital personnel took blood donations at the expo and explained why it was important for people to donate blood.

“It is important for people to donate blood because it is not for sale anywhere and it will save a lot of lives,” said Bridgitte F. Westbrook, overseas screener, Balboa Naval Hospital.

The next Health and Fitness Expo is scheduled to take place next spring.

TRICARE lists behavioral health myths and facts

BY KRISTEN WARD
TriWest Healthcare Alliance

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. It is a time to learn the truth about some of common behavioral health myths.

1. Myth: Behavioral health issues only affect a small population of certain groups.

Fact: Approximately one in five adults struggle with a behavioral health disorder of varying degrees. Behavioral health issues do not discriminate – problems can impact anyone regardless of ethnicity, age or gender.

2. Myth: I don’t have a behavioral health problem. I just need something to help me relax.

Fact: People often self-medicate with drugs or alcohol. Feeling a “high” while on alcohol or drugs is temporary and when it’s over, it can lead to more cravings, increased depression or other symptoms.

3. Myth: My TRICARE benefits won’t cover behavioral health care.

Fact: TRICARE covers mental and behavioral health care that is medically or psychologically necessary. Arrange a screening with your primary care manager, who can then help you decide whether to seek additional treatments if symptoms are found. If you do pursue treatment, TRICARE

covers up to eight behavioral health visits with a network provider without an authorization.

Active duty servicemembers must receive a referral from their PCM or military treatment facility in order to seek treatment outside of the MTF. Active duty family members do not need preauthorization for the first eight therapy visits with a network provider. For treatment beyond the initial eight therapy visits, beneficiaries are required to receive authorization.

4. Myth: Behavioral health disorders are untreatable.

Fact: The majority of people with behavioral health disorders improve when they receive appropriate treatment. Types of treatment depend on the diagnosis, severity of symptoms and preference. A variety of treatments, including medications and short-term psychotherapies, have proven effective.

5. Myth: Seeing a provider is my only option for help.

Fact: Several options are available for assistance in learning and dealing with behavioral health related issues, including the “Help From Home” video series which features military families who have faced the challenges of deployment and reintegration. This and other tools are available on the behavioral health portal of www.triwest.com.

TriWest also provides telephone access and crisis intervention services 24-hours a day, 7-days a week at (866) 284-3743.

BRIEFS

From the Chief of Staff

This is a friendly reminder that vehicle operators on the depot, and operators of government-owned vehicles, shall not use cellular phones while driving unless they use a hands-free device. A hands-free device is a feature that permits a driver to use the telephone without lifting or holding the handset to the driver’s ear. Also prohibited is wearing portable headphones, earphones, or other listening devices while jogging, walking, skating, skateboarding or bicycling while aboard a military facility.

In preparation of the Critical Days of Summer campaign, a period of increased risk for Marines which runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day, we need to ensure our Marines remain safe.

Beginning June 1, violators of these orders will receive traffic citations on base.

Memorial Day Service and Day of Remembrance Ceremony

Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery will celebrate the 108th annual Memorial Day Service and Day of Remembrance Ceremony from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 Monday. The program will include music by Marine Band San Diego, a wreath tribute, speeches, a cannon and rifle salute, a bagpipe player, and special readings. The keynote speaker is Brig. Gen. Angie Salinas, commanding general, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Western Recruiting Region. For information call (619) 553-2084.

Brown Bag Lunch Series

The depot’s financial advisor, Mike McIsaac, invites depot personnel to attend his Brown Bag Lunch Series of financial workshops.

Upcoming workshops include:

June 18 – Understanding homeowner’s and auto insurance

July 23 – How to get out of debt, manage credit and build wealth

Sunset Concert

Marine Band San Diego will perform its annual Summer Sunset Concert, June 14 at 7 p.m. on the lawn in front of Pendleton Hall on the depot. The concert is open to the public and admission is free. Blankets and lawn chairs are allowed. Prohibited items include coolers, alcohol, glass bottles and pets (except for service animals). Vehicles may enter at Gate 5 (back gate). Gate 2 will be closed to vehicles, but pedestrians may walk through.

SEND BRIEFS TO:

roger.edwards@usmc.mil. The Chevron staff reserves the right to publish only those briefs that comply with Department of Defense regulations and the standards of the U.S. Government.



Taking off from the start line of Operation Coyote Hole in Ft. Worth, Texas, April 30, are, from left to right, Cpl. Joseph Darby, 8th Marine Corps District operations clerk, Master Gunnery Sgt. Jack Jacobs, 8th MCD operations chief, Maj. Jaime Gutierrez, 8th MCD assistant to enlisted recruiting, Lt. Col. Roger Mitchell, 8th MCD operations officer and Mitchell's dog, Lady. Operation Coyote Hole pitted 8th Marine Corps District Marines assigned to Recruiting Stations Dallas and Ft. Worth against one another in a contest that included running with a 35-pound kettle bell (a weight that resembles a cannon ball with a handle), running with a water jug, crossing the Trinity River, a fireman's carry race, a three-legged race and a tug-of-war with teams on either side of the Trinity River. Each team was also given four raw eggs to carry throughout the exercise.

Cpl Andrew Young/8th Marine Corps District

Marines head to the mud for Operation Coyote Hole



Gunnery Sgt. Donald McLendon, left, and Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez, with the 8th Marine Corps District, carry a water jug and kettle bell down a steep ravine during the first portion of Operation Coyote Hole.

Cpl Andrew Young/8th Marine Corps District



Marines struggle to win the tug-of-war challenge during Operation Coyote Hole. From left to right, Sgt. Randy Delarosa, Sgt. Rene Govea, Gunnery Sgt. Donald McLendon, and Staff Sgt. Juan Rodriguez pull the rope aggressively for five minutes, but still lose to their competition on the other side of the Trinity River.

Cpl Andrew Young/8th Marine Corps District

BY STAFF SGT. J. JUAN RODRIGUEZ
8th MCD Public Affairs

Water moccasins, coyotes, snapping turtles and knee-deep mud confronted 31 Marines April 30 during Operation Coyote Hole.

Marines from the 8th Marine Corps District Headquarters and Recruiting Stations Dallas and Ft. Worth chose mission day for a mud run competition.

"To break up the monotony of the recruiting environment one needs a good old-fashioned mud run," Maj. Jaime Gutierrez, assistant for enlisted recruiting officer, 8th MCD headquarters.

Six teams competed for the coveted Operation Coyote Hole trophy.

"Marines love getting dirty, a Spartan challenge, and an event to build camaraderie within the district," said Gutierrez.

They trudged through approximately one-and-a-half miles of rough rocky, muddy and hilly terrain—all while carrying a raw egg, to challenge their balance.

Each team started the event in one-minute intervals with the first event being the five-gallon water jug and the kettle bell carry.

Two team members from each team carried a 45-pound water jug and a 35-pound kettle bell through a dirt trail

and down a sharp declined rocky ravine.

At the bottom of the ravine, they dropped the jugs and kettle bells and began station two, which welcomed the Marines by making them cross an unpleasant section of the Trinity River.

Next, they slid down the muddy bank and landed in the soupy water below. The soft and sticky river bottom limited the Marines' ability to move.

"I jumped into the river and, as I landed, the bottom felt like quicksand and I sunk in. When I pulled my foot out, I realized my shoe was stuck in three feet of mud," said Staff Sgt. Abraham Bueno, administration chief, RS Ft. Worth.

Some contestants chose to swim to the other side of the river where another steeper, slippery bank had others wishing they wore cleats instead of running shoes.

There was more mud as they ran to station three where they were instructed by Staff Sgt. Peterson Jean-Paul, district comptroller's office, to lift their fellow Marines onto their shoulders and start walking down a 100-meter-long gully with ankle-high mud.

Carefully they trudged through the mud balancing their dirty cargo on their shoulders and taking them to the other side.

Once they offloaded their smelly burden, the Marines

ran to section three where they paired up and tied their legs together for a three-legged race to section four.

They all managed to get to section four to start their final sprint to the last section, which had them swimming back across the river.

Wet and tired, but with smiles on their faces, the Marines readied themselves for one last challenge—the tug-of-war. The river water served as the division between the teams, and each team stood on either side of the muddy banks.

The Cowboys of RS Dallas, led by Capt. Taylor Young, operations officer, emerged victoriously by completing all the obstacles in 14 minutes, thirty seconds.

Team Longhorns, led by Capt. Bandon Locky, executive officer, RS Ft. Worth, came in a close second in 14 minutes, and 45 seconds.

Honorable mention went to Team Slip-A-Lot led by Gunnery Sgt. Donald McLendon, district assistant officer procurement chief, which managed to slide into third place with 14 minutes, 50 seconds.

For their victory, the Cowboys received the official Operation Coyote Hole plaque and certificate as well as four consecutive Sundays off. Team Longhorns received the Lost and Found Warrior Certificate. Everyone else was awarded with a good muddy time and wore smiles that lasted all day.



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Recruit Michael Powell, Platoon 3263, Company M, does push-ups during a circuit course in the first phase of training. *Cpl. James Green/Chevron*



Company M drill instructors observe recruits as they pump out a maximum set of crunches. During the physical training test, recruits can perform up to 100 crunches for the most points. *Cpl. James Green/Chevron*

Company M recruits tackle circuit course, build their bodies the Marine Corps way

BY CPL. JAMES GREEN
Chevron staff

Reveille rang through the stone enclosing of the depot signifying the start of another day here aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. As the recruits raced to the chow hall, Company M drill instructors were already out on the physical training field preparing several stations with rubber cones designed to physically and mentally take a toll on the bodies of their recruits. As morning colors played through the depot's loud speakers and Old Glory was raised, Company M recruits stood by awaiting the whistle blast that would begin their first station of their circuit course.

The recruits were faced with agility and shuttle runs, sprints, and a variety of abdominal exercises in the first half of their workout. The circuit course is one of the first physical training events the recruits do, said Sgt. Christopher Boelzner, drill instructor, Company M. "The recruits will do it many times throughout recruit training and it usually is difficult the first time they do it," said Boelzner. "But after a while their endurance builds and it becomes much easier." These calisthenics were followed by a trip to the sand pit where their horizons were broadened when the recruits were introduced to free weights, dip bars, jump ropes

and monkey and pull up bars. "The dips and the pull-up station were the hardest for me, because although I consider myself physically fit, I lacked the endurance to lift my own body weight numerous times," said Recruit Ryan Vollemaere, Platoon 3265. The purpose of the course is to physically build the bodies of the young men in recruit training here and mentally train them to push to give 100 percent of their effort even when their bodies want to quit. Drill instructors are assigned to a group of recruits to attend each station of the course to provide instructions on how to correctly complete each obstacle as well as give extra motivation to those recruits

who need it. "We yell at them throughout the course not only to keep their stress level up, but also to encourage them to put forth max effort," said Boelzner. Recruit Carl Hanson, Platoon 3265, said that it really helped having his drill instructors there to motivate him. "When the drill instructors yelled at me, I used it as a source of motivation. It pushed me not to quit, even when I wanted to give up on myself," said Hanson, a Seattle, Wash., native. The circuit course was just one of many obstacles of which Marine Corps recruit training is comprised. During the grueling 13-week training cycle, Company M recruits tackled

many events that many of them believed to be impossible before their arrival. Vollemaere, a Houston native, said the circuit course was difficult the first couple times he went through it, but it got easier with time and now he doesn't find it challenging at all. As the new Marines of Company M graduate today, with the training that Marines before them completed and the Marines who will soon follow in their footsteps complete, the nation can rest assured that the 356 men of Company M crossing Shepherd Memorial Drill Field have been properly trained to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.



Recruits from Platoon 3262, Company M, jump rope to work on hand and foot coordination. *Cpl. James Green/Chevron*



oland Taylor, drill instructor, Platoon 3263, Company M, motivates recruits at the leg-lift station of the circuit course. Drill instructors yell at the recruits throughout the course to keep their stress up and encourage them to put forth maximum effort. *Cpl. James Green/Chevron*



t Gregory Gordon, Platoon 3266, Company M, struggles to squeeze out one last p during the circuit course. Recruits are expected to give full effort in everything o at recruit training. *Cpl. James Green/Chevron*



t Andrew Campbell, left, Platoon 3263, Company M, does core-strengthening es along with fellow recruits. *Cpl. James Green/Chevron*



Shuttle runs and agility runs are incorporated throughout the course to help build up the recruits' endurance. Company M recruits ran the circuit course many times during recruit training. *Cpl. James Green/Chevron*

Marine opts for active duty before becoming a teacher

BY CPL. CARRIE BOOZE
Chevron Staff

Pfc. Dale Query grew up in the small town of Basin, Wyo., where he spent the majority of his days playing in basketball, football and track competitions. Query said that although sports took up most of his time, his family was very supportive especially his father. His father coached his little league and wrestling teams for eight years, so they were very close, said his mother Patricia Query. “My father was diagnosed with Huntington’s disease 15 years ago, but despite his illness he never missed one of my games or practices. It was great always having him there for that extra support,” said Query.

Query played sports throughout high school where he won several competitions and ended up earning a football scholarship to play at Blackhill State University, Spearfish, S.D. While in college, Query played football for four years and then became a coach for his team during the fifth year. He said that because he had been playing sports his whole life, it was difficult to stop. He said he missed being a part of a team and the close bond he had with his teammates.

During Query’s five years of college, he earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and special education, and an associate degree in reading. Query said that he chose those degrees because he loves children and he wants to mentor and help them learn. “Some children don’t have fathers, and I want to be that positive male role model in their lives. I think it would be a very rewarding job to have such an influence in a child’s life,” said Query. Although Query aspired to be a teacher, he said that since high school he has also wanted to join the military. He said he wanted to defend his country and be a part of the great things that are being accomplished overseas. Like teaching, serving in the Marine Corps is another way he could secure the future of the nation’s youth, he said. “I also wanted to serve my country and travel. My dad served in Vietnam with the Army and I wanted to have the same experiences that he had,” said Query. “My college years were wrapping up

and I reached a point in my life where I had to decide whether I wanted to just get a job, or follow my dream of becoming a Marine,” said Query. During Query’s final semester in college, he contacted a recruiter and enlisted in the Marine Corps with an infantryman military occupational specialty. “My father was proud of me for joining the Marine Corps, but before I left his disease was getting progressively worse where he couldn’t speak clearly or understand what I was saying,” said Query. The day before Query left for recruit training he went to visit and eat lunch with his father. His family had recently admitted him into a nursing home because of the increased severity of his illness. “Right before I left, my father stood up, walked over to me, gave me a hug and told me he loved me in the clearest voice I had heard from him in months,” said Query. Once in recruit training, Query picked up with Company D, Platoon 1066, where he quickly earned the billet of squad leader and then guide. A month into training, Query received a Red Cross message alerting him that while his father was hospitalized for phenomena he died. Query was immediately sent on 10-days of emergency leave. “I was devastated when my father died,” said Query. “He was a big part of my life and the best father I could have asked for.” Although it was difficult leaving his mother and younger brother, Query said he knew that he had to return to recruit training and earn the title of United States Marine. Because Query had missed a substantial amount of training, he was dropped from his original company and picked up with Company M, Platoon 3262. “He was a little timid when he first got here and kept to himself because he was in a new environment,” said Staff Sgt. Esteban Zapata, drill instructor, Platoon 3262. “I would have never guessed that he had just been through such a tragedy.” Query said that recruit training was very hectic; therefore he didn’t have a lot of time to mourn over his father. He said that the members of his former platoon were very supportive and tried to talk him through it. Query said that it was hard switching



Pfc. Dale Query waits to be inspected during the Battalion Commander’s Inspection on Shepherd Memorial Drill Field, Tuesday. *Cpl. Carrie Booze/Chevron*

platoons because he hadn’t yet established a bond and understanding with his new platoon members. Not long after being in his new platoon, Query earned the billet of guide. “The other recruits didn’t know what to expect from him, so because he had a fresh start he could set the tone for the platoon,” said Zapata. “He was real motivated as the guide, and led the platoon from the front.” Query said his favorite part of recruit training was the final day on the Crucible, when his platoon was hiking back and received their eagle, globe and anchors. “I put a lot of time, effort and sweat in order to make it to that day, and all

of those hardships were worth it,” said Query. While in recruit training Query was better educated on his options in the Marine Corps and decided to apply for Officer Candidate School, in hopes of earning a commission. Query said that he wants to further his education while in the Marine Corps and earn a masters degree in administration so when he gets out of the Marine Corps he can ultimately become a principal. After the graduation ceremony, Query will return home for 10-days of leave, then report to the Infantry Training Battalion at the School of Infantry, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Maj. Gen. Walter E. Gaskin Sr.

PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER

Maj. Gen. Walter E. Gaskin Sr. assumed duties as the commanding general of the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C., June 16, 2006. In addition, he simultaneously served as the commanding general of II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward). During this tour, Maj. Gen. Gaskin led II MEF (Forward) during its year-long deployment to Al Anbar Province, Iraq, as the commanding general of Multi-National Forces-West. His previous assignments as a general officer includes service as the commanding general of Marine Corps Recruiting Command in Quantico, Va., beginning in September 2002 as well as the chief of staff, Naval Striking and Support Forces-Southern Europe, and as the deputy commanding general, Fleet Marine Forces-Europe in Naples, Italy, from 2001 to 2002. Maj. Gen. Gaskin’s first assignment as a general officer was as the commanding general, Training and Education Com-

mand in Quantico, Va., in March 2000. Maj. Gen. Walter E. Gaskin served four times with the 2nd Marine Division, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment; 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines; 6th Marine Regiment; and 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines. During his assignment with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marines, Maj. Gen. Gaskin was the commanding officer and also served as the commanding officer of Battalion Landing Team 2/2 when the battalion was assigned to the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), for deployment as Landing Force-6th Fleet during Operations Assured Response and Quick Response in defense of American embassies in Liberia and the Central African Republic. Maj. Gen. Gaskin’s other previous assignments with II MEF include service as the current operations action officer and operations officer for II MEF (Forward) supporting Exercise Battle Griffin in Norway; head of expeditionary operations for II MEF operations; and as commanding officer of the 22nd MEU (SOC) during deployment as Landing Force 6th

Fleet, participating in Exercises Bright Star in Egypt and Infinite Moonlight in Jordan, and acting as the strategic reserve for operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. In addition to his service at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Maj. Gen. Gaskin also served with 3rd Force Service Support Group; 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan; and with Combined Forces Command operations, Seoul, South Korea, as the head of the Ground Forces Branch. Maj. Gen. Gaskin’s supporting establishment service includes assignment as series commander and company commander at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.; Marine officer instructor, Savannah State University Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps; assistant officer selection officer, Recruiting Station Macon, Ga.; action officer-in-charge of unit environmental training programs for Marine Corps Combat Development Center; and ground colonels’ monitor at Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. A 1974 graduate from Savannah State University with a Bachelor of

Science, Maj. Gen. Gaskin also earned a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma in 1992. His professional military education includes The Basic School and Amphibious Warfare School Quantico, Va.; the United States Army Command and Staff College, Leavenworth, Kan.; and the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pa.





Platoon 3265
COMPANY HONOR MAN
Lance Cpl. Z. G. Naramore
Palmer, Alaska
Recruited by
Gunnery Sgt. A. R. Dervaes



Platoon 3262
SERIES HONOR MAN
Pfc. D. V. Query
Basin, Wyo.
Recruited by
Sgt. K. S. Degeest



Platoon 3261
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. A. N. Bartholomew
Santa Rosa, Calif.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. A. Cordova



Platoon 3263
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. P. Johnson
Racine, Wis.
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. M. A. Vera



Platoon 3266
PLATOON HONOR MAN
Pfc. J. D. Wright
Corsicana, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. S. White



Platoon 3266
HIGH SHOOTER (236)
Pfc. J. L. Olivarez
Dayton, Texas
Marksmanship Instructor
Sgt. P. J. Lindquist



Platoon 3266
HIGH PFT (300)
Pfc. J. D. Wright
Corsicana, Texas
Recruited by
Staff Sgt. S. White

MIKE COMPANY



The Marines of Company M stand tall and proud in the Service “A” uniforms during the Battalion Commander’s Inspection. The Battalion Commander’s Inspection is the final seal of approval for the new Marines. They are tested on bearing, appearance and Marine Corps knowledge. *Cpl. Carrie Booze/Chevron*

3RD RECRUIT TRAINING BATTALION

Commanding Officer
Lt. Col. R. W. Jones
Sergeant Major
Sgt. Maj. T. W. Peterson
Chaplain
Lt. R. T. Rinaldi, USN
Battalion Drill Master
Gunnery Sgt. D. K. Ellington

COMPANY M

Commanding Officer
Capt. J. E. Boyer
Company First Sergeant
1st. Sgt. S. Cummings
Company Corpsman
Petty Officer 2nd Class A. Bourgon

SERIES 3261

Series Commander
Capt. K. J. Stepp
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. J. A. Smith

PLATOON 3261

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. Y. Paschall
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. F. R. Becker
Staff Sgt. J. D. King
Staff Sgt. P. D. Mason

Pvt. C. J. Abernathy
Pvt. Z. J. Armstrong
*Pfc. R. M. Attlee
Pfc. E. A. Aguilar
Pvt. M. R. Avila
Pvt. E. Ayaladelrio
Pfc. R. P. Ayers
Pfc. C. W. Bailey
Pfc. A. N. Bartholomew
Pvt. J. P. Benthin
Pvt. B. L. Biessener
Pfc. N. L. Blocker
Pvt. T. L. Boblett
Pvt. A. J. Brand
Pfc. N. B. Brown
Pvt. M. A. Browne
Pvt. J. G. Brozovic
Pvt. E. T. Candoo
Pfc. F. J. Cano
Pfc. B. W. Corbin
*Pfc. B. A. Deloso Jr.

Pvt. T. R. Donoghue
Pvt. D. L. Drake
Pvt. D. C. Duncan
Pvt. K. T. Duryeahouck
Pvt. S. M. Eidson
Pvt. M. M. Elamrani
Pfc. E. A. Flowers III
Pvt. V. P. Fuoco
Pvt. M. R. Goyet
Pvt. S. T. Gray
*Pfc. T. C. Gregory
Pfc. L. E. Hamann
Pfc. C. D. Hamilton
Pvt. J. A. Harden
Pvt. B. A. Hartzell
Pvt. N. C. Henzell
Pfc. S. P. Jacob
Pvt. A. M. Jiminez
Pvt. B. Jenkins
*Pfc. L. R. Johnson
Pvt. B. S. Kaczor
Pvt. J. K. Kelley
Pvt. J. R. Lacey
Pvt. P. Lee
Pvt. S. M. Lukenbach
Pvt. J. E. McCollough
Pvt. R. J. McJilton
Pfc. A. S. McWilliams
Pvt. R. J. Melson
Pvt. J. M. Moore
Pvt. D. E. Morby
Pvt. L. O. Morris Jr.
Pvt. E. J. Nunez
Pfc. B. Pina
Pvt. M. W. Powell
Pfc. P. R. Scavo
Pvt. J. P. Wilson

PLATOON 3262

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. J. S. Harbison
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. J. L. Ledesma
Staff Sgt. E. J. Mahoney
Staff Sgt. E. Zapata
Sgt. M. A. Rucker

Pvt. J. S. Allen
Pvt. A. C. Alvarez
*Pfc. R. J. Bailey
Pvt. B. L. Baker
Pvt. K. W. Baker
Pvt. J. C. Baladez
Pfc. A. J. Bernal

Pvt. M. R. Bishop
Pvt. B. A. Boales
*Pfc. C. M. Bourne
*Pfc. J. C. Brito
Pfc. J. A. Buchman
Pvt. J. D. Castillo
Pvt. G. S. Chapman
Pvt. C. T. Chase
Pvt. C. A. M. Clodfelter
Pfc. R. M. Cortez
Pvt. M. A. Curiel
Pvt. T. M. Dager
Pvt. C. L. Davenport
Pvt. J. L. Davis
Pvt. K. R. Delgado
Pvt. S. T. Dolan
Pfc. J. J. Engstrom
Pvt. M. A. Garton
Pvt. E. B. Girtton
Pvt. K. Graham
Pvt. S. Gurka
Pvt. J. D. Hanson
Pfc. C. L. Hawbaker
*Pfc. E. L. Henry
Pvt. J. A. Houk
Pvt. M. D. Jefferson
Pfc. L. P. Jolley
Pvt. J. A. Kuehler
Pfc. T. J. Lame
Pvt. N. K. Lee
Pvt. C. A. Lujan
Pvt. M. F. Madriz
Pfc. Z. T. Maki
Pvt. A. T. Mansfield
Pvt. L. A. Marroquin
Pfc. R. L. Maxwell
Pvt. P. J. McCaffrey
Pvt. R. B. McDonald
Pvt. N. L. McFarland
Pfc. C. R. Misajet
Pvt. S. A. Muldoon
Pfc. O. N. Perez
Pfc. R. R. Perez
Pvt. V. J. Perez
Pvt. A. B. Phillips
Pfc. D. V. Query
Pvt. R. G. Richmond
Pvt. F. Rodriguez
Pfc. W. B. Rogers
Pvt. J. N. Stafford
Pvt. J. M. Wood
Pvt. S. D. Yanez

PLATOON 3263

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. R. J. Hurtado

Drill Instructors

Sgt. J. E. Dow
Sgt. M. Ramos
Sgt. T. J. Taylor

Pvt. A. C. Adun
Pfc. A. W. Almeida
Pfc. T. A. Batten
Pfc. M. A. Brooks
Pvt. R. A. Brown
*Pfc. R. A. Bufanda
Pvt. Z. R. Burden
Pvt. V. C. Bustos
Pvt. J. A. Bylewski
Pvt. A. W. Campbell
Pfc. J. B. Campbell
Pvt. B. L. Contreras
Pvt. J. F. Cruz
Pfc. J. M. Dahms
Pvt. P. E. Daly
Pvt. J. M. Descloux
Pfc. P. M. Dunne
Pfc. M. E. Dyer
Pvt. K. E. Eisert
Pvt. C. J. Elder
Pvt. R. Elias
Pvt. A. T. Ellich
Pvt. J. F. Espinal
Pvt. R. R. Flores
Pvt. E. J. Flores-Gomez
Pvt. S. D. Foster
Pvt. T. W. Foster Jr.
Pfc. D. W. Brower
Pvt. A. J. Garcia
*Pfc. U. Garcia
Pvt. A. A. Godsey
Pvt. E. B. Gomez
Pvt. B. A. Gonzalez
Pvt. M. D. Gonzalez
Pfc. T. A. Harper
Pfc. J. Harmon
Pvt. J. Houck
Pvt. C. E. Hulsey
Pfc. D. J. Huntley
Pvt. D. L. Ivers
Pvt. J. Jimenez-Chinchias
*Pfc. J. R. Johnson
*Pfc. P. Johnson
Pvt. G. T. Kaltenberg
Pfc. J. S. Kim
Pvt. J. H. Kirk VI
Pvt. J. J. Krummel
Pfc. R. L. Kuiper
Pvt. B. S. Leivan

Pvt. T. D. Link
Pvt. M. A. Mays
Pvt. M. A. Medina
Pfc. C. W. Miller
Pvt. J. E. Miller
Pvt. T. W. Miller
Pfc. G. M. Navarrete
Pvt. J. Q. Tran
*Pfc. X. D. Webster
Pvt. J. D. Williams

Series 3265

Series Commander
Capt. R. D. Scalise
Series Gunnery Sergeant
Gunnery Sgt. M. D. Stout

PLATOON 3265

Senior Drill Instructor
Staff Sgt. V. Cambunga
Drill Instructors
Staff Sgt. M. B. Cannon
Staff Sgt. J. E. Collins
Staff Sgt. M. A. Lopez
Sgt. I. D. Diaz
Sgt. T. W. Garcia

Pfc. G. A. Acosta
Pvt. C. M. Alexander
Pvt. N. P. Amato
Pvt. M. J. Bailey
Pfc. E. R. Bribiesca
Pvt. D. W. Brower
Pvt. C. R. Cliburn
Pvt. M. A. Cole
Pvt. D. Collins
Pfc. C. C. Fazio
Pvt. B. K. Franks
*Pfc. J. Galvan Jr.
Pvt. C. A. Gaspar
Pvt. W. C. Goetz
*Pfc. R. K. Haili
Pvt. C. G. Hall
Pvt. C. J. Hanson
Pvt. M. P. Howard
Pvt. M. Hyde
Pvt. K. R. Jones
Pfc. Z. C. Keating
Pvt. D. Lingen
Pvt. B. C. Mayo
Pvt. K. E. Montenegro
Pfc. M. D. Muggia
*Pfc. A. M. Murphy
Pvt. A. Murrieta

*Lance Cpl. Z. G. Naramore
Pfc. J. L. Nate
Pvt. P. M. Nauman
*Pfc. J. J. Nguyen
Pvt. D. Omalley
Pvt. K. J. Otero
Pvt. R. O. Paredes
Pvt. J. R. Peterson
Pfc. J. S. Powell
Pvt. R. Rico Jr.
Pfc. B. S. Roberts
Pvt. A. G. Sanchez
Pvt. M. R. Schlamann
Pvt. J. J. Schultz
Pvt. J. Shreves
Pvt. R. L. Skilling
Pvt. J. S. Smith
Pvt. C. L. Smith Jr.
Pvt. M. Solis
Pvt. P. R. Stewart
Pvt. J. M. Strelow
Pvt. T. Suvansilpakit
Pvt. L. A. Tello
Pfc. J. W. Tikkanen
Pvt. F. Uribe
Pvt. B. J. Voris
Pfc. R. A. Vollemaere
Pfc. R. L. Warnke
Pvt. D. Wilkerson
Pfc. B. C. Williams
Pvt. G. C. Williams
Pvt. J. S. Zimmerman

PLATOON 3266

Senior Drill Instructor
Sgt. F. J. Lewis
Drill Instructors
Sgt. J. R. Bennett
Sgt. C. R. Boelzner
Sgt. N. L. Johnson
Sgt. J. Tibana

Pvt. C. J. Dawson
Pvt. G. W. Gordon
Pvt. J. J. Henriod
Pvt. B. L. Klee
Pvt. G. K. Lengel
Pfc. A. Luevano
Pvt. C. E. Montano
Pvt. C. D. Mooney
Pvt. A. J. Morganson
Pvt. D. B. Murchison
Pfc. C. E. Murray
Pvt. A. C. Nasselli

Pvt. S. M. North
*Pfc. J. L. Olivarez
Pfc. B. L. Parks
Pvt. M. T. Pedrosa
Pfc. M. D. Peyer
Pvt. G. T. Quinn
Pvt. B. P. Ragan
Pvt. A. Ramirez
Pvt. C. D. Ramirez
Pfc. J. C. Ramos-Carmona
Pvt. B. D. Record
Pvt. N. C. Robison
Pvt. P. A. Robles-Miranda
Pfc. J. L. Rodriguez
Pvt. C. M. Royer
Pvt. M. A. Ruiz
Pvt. M. D. Sablatura
Pvt. C. L. Smith Jr.
Pfc. B. K. Shuart
Pvt. S. C. Sloan
*Pfc. Z. R. Smith
Pvt. A. J. Sneed
Pvt. G. N. Sponsler
Pvt. K. R. Springer
Pfc. S. P. Staggs
Pvt. D. J. Stark
*Pfc. I. P. Stewart
Pfc. D. G. Stillwell
Pvt. T. D. Stroud
Pvt. P. V. Sunly
Pfc. T. J. Tallman
Pvt. A. D. Teague
Pvt. J. L. Valdenegro
Pvt. C. L. Van Namen
Pfc. J. A. Van de Kamp
*Pfc. J. J. Vanopynen
Pvt. J. J. Vega
Pfc. D. A. Walker
Pvt. G. M. Walker
Pvt. A. S. Wanless
Pvt. J. B. Warner
Pvt. Z. R. Weatherwax
Pfc. T. J. Windom
Pvt. B. L. Wisa
Pvt. P. V. Wood
Pvt. J. J. Woodke
Pfc. J. D. Wright

*Denotes meritorious promotion

Depot hosts 2008 Youth Physical Fitness competition

BY CPL. CARRIE BOOZE
Chevron staff

For more than 200 years, the Marine Corps has set the standards for physical fitness and dedication. So when more than 150 high school students gathered at the depot for the National Youth

Physical Fitness Championship May 16 and 17, they were put to the test by some of the most motivational fitness trainers the military has to offer, the United States Marines.

The championships are sponsored by the United States Marines Youth Foun-

dation and hosted by the depot every year. The event was founded in 1967 by retired Maj. Gen. Walter Churchill with the intent of guiding the nation's youth down a path of healthy living, free of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, by giving them a challenging task.

Students who make it to

the championship go through many hours of grueling preparation.

William Potter, Bethpage High School, Long Island, N.Y., said that he has been preparing for this competition three days a week since December.

"This is my first year participating in this event, but I am excited and feel very confident in my abilities," said Potter.

Students from 11 high schools across the country rallied at the depot's softball field to compete in sit-ups, push-ups, pull-ups, standing long jump, and the 300-yard shuttle run. Depot Marines motivated the students to put forth maximum effort.

"It feels awesome to be a part of an event that promotes physical fitness in our youth, especially because obesity is such a problem in the United States," said Lance Cpl. Meghan Haager, disperser, finance. "These kids are in great shape, and it is amazing to see all of the things they can do."

During the events, the students earned individual scores that were compiled to make their team scores. Awards were presented to

both individuals and teams.

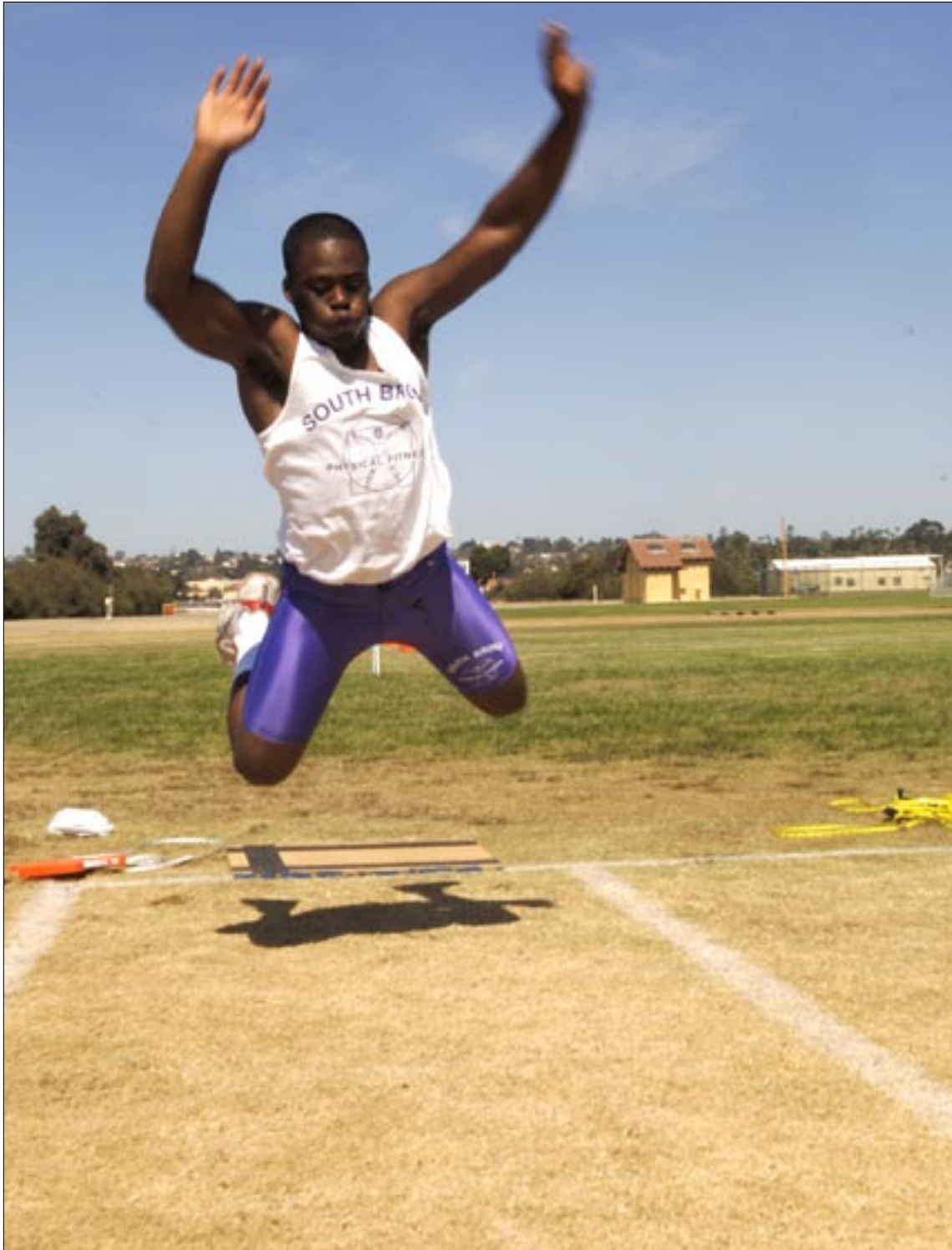
South Bronx High School students, from Bronx, N.Y., defeated the other schools in the men's competition, with a total of 2,368 points. The runner-up was Emmaus High School, from Emmaus, Penn., with a score of 2,343 points.

In the women's competition, Emmaus High School trumped over its competitors with a score of 1,583 points. Bethpage High School came in second place with a score of 1,574 points.

The male's individual award was presented to Elizear Torres, South Bronx High School, who had an overall score of 499 points. Ana Vazquez, Mar Vista High School, Imperial, Calif., won the female individual award with a score of 286.

While aboard the depot, students were given the chance to witness a Company H recruit training graduation and visit Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

"I felt honored to be able to watch the graduation, and I think it is amazing that most of the Marines graduating are my age," said Potter. "I am just relieved that we have such well-trained people protecting our country."



Andre Simpson, 16, South Bronx High School, Bronx, N.Y., leaps 8-feet, 9-inches at the long-jump station during the 2008 Youth Physical Fitness Competition here, May 17. *Cpl. Carrie Booze/Chevron*



Youth physical fitness championship competitors from across the United States perform sit-ups as depot Marines monitor and motivate them to put forth their maximum effort. *Cpl. Carrie Booze/Chevron*



Elias Williams, 17, South Bronx High School, Bronx, N.Y., pushes himself to do the final of 36 pushups at the push-up station during the competition. *Cpl. Carrie Booze/Chevron*



Students from Emmaus High School, Emmaus, Pa., work to beat their personal best as they compete to see who can do the most pull-ups in the allotted time of the contest. *Cpl. Carrie Booze/Chevron*